

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 12905 131618Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130658 131639Z /44

O 131430Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4182
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ROME 12905

EXDIS

FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11653: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT,MOPS,LE,VT
SUBJ: VATICAN REACTIONS TO NEXT STEPS TO DIFFUSE CRISIS
IN LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 174090 B. ROME 12566

1. ON JULY 12TH WE SHARED IDEAS OUTLINED IN STATE 174090
WITH VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI. CASAROLI
APPLAUDED THE INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS WHICH THE US HAS ALREADY
TAKEN VIS-A-VIS THE LEBANESE SITUATION AND ENDORSED IN PRINCIPLE
ALL THE ELEMENTS OUTLINED AS EMINENTLY DESIRABLE FOR STRATEGY
TO DIFFUSE LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. CASAROLI TOLD US THAT HE WANTED FIRST TO LET US KNOW THAT
THE VATICAN HAD TAKEN PARALLEL STEPS TO OURS TO FORESTALL
PRESIDENT SARKIS' RESIGNATION -- THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
NUNCIO IN BEIRUT AND ALSO THROUGH A MESSAGE OF GENERAL
ENCOURAGEMENT TO SARKIS FROM THE POPE -- AND HAS CONTINUED URGING
RESTRAINT ON CHRISTIANS IN LEBANON. HE ALSO TOLD US, IN STRICT
CONFIDENCE, THAT SINCE WE LAST TALKED (ROME 12306) THE POPE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 12905 131618Z

HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA THROUGH THE
NUNCIO IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH THE POPE URGED RESPECT FOR CEASE-
FIRE AND RESTATED VATICAN COMMITMENT TO UNITY OF LEBANON. SO
FAR CASAROLI SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO REPLY FROM ASAD BUT THAT
VATICAN HAD AN INDIRECT REPLY IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA
REMONSTRATED THAT ITS ACTIONS IN BEIRUT WERE IN ACCORD WITH
ITS MANDATE TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND FOR PRESERVING LEBANESE

UNITY AND EXPRESSED RESENTMENT AT OUTSIDE CRITICISM OF ITS ACTIONS. WITH REGARD TO SENDING PAPAL EMISSARY TO LEBANON CASAROLI STATED THAT IDEA HAD NOT BEEN ABANDONED BUT THAT VATICAN THINKING ON THIS SUBJECT HAS SHIFTED FOCUS. INITIAL THINKING WAS IN TERMS OF AN EMISSARY TO MEDIATE AMONG THE VARIOUS CHRISTIAN FACTIONS. NOW THINKING IS THAT IF AN EMISSARY IS SENT TO LEBANON HE SHOULD ALSO GO TO SYRIA AND THAT THE OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE STEPS TO DIFFUSE THE CRISIS ENGENDERED BY THE RECENT FIGHTING IN BEIRUT. (COMMENT: CASAROLI LEFT US WITH IMPRESSION THAT NATURE OF ASAD REPLY WOULD DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE VATICAN DECIDES TO SEND AN EMISSARY.)

3. WITH RESPECT TO "NEXT STEPS TO DIFFUSE THE CRISIS" OUTLINED IN STATE 174090 CASAROLI SAID THAT IN THEIR TOTALITY THEY MADE EMINENTLY GOOD SENSE. HE AGREED THAT A WELL THOUGHT OUT STRATEGY MUST INCORPORATE STEPS TO PROMOTE THE DISENGAGEMENT OF THE FORCES ON THE GROUND, THE LOWERING OF THE VISIBILITY OF THE MILITIAS AND A GENERAL WITHDRAWAL OF THE MILITIAS AND THE ADF FROM POSSIBLE FLASHPOINTS. ON THE POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS OF THE MILITIAS BY LEBANESE POLICE AND ARMY UNITS CASAROLI COMMENTED, "YES, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, KEEPING IN MIND THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF CONFIDENCE AND THE NUMBERS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING THE SECURITY OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION." HE THOUGHT THAT THE FIRST STEP IN THIS STRATEGY SHOULD BE THE PLACEMENT OF THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ROME 12905 131618Z

ADF UNDER THE "REA" PERSONAL COMMAND OF PRESIDENT SARKIS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A CAREFULLY-MONITORED DISARMAMENT OF ALL THE FACTIONS, PROCEEDING ON PARALLEL TRACKS AND IN A BALANCED WAY.
GARDNER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME12905
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780287-0560
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780761/aaaabzpj.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c41d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 174090
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2012806
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VATICAN REACTIONS TO NEXT STEPS TO DIFFUSE CRISIS IN LEBANON
TAGS: PINT, MOPS, LE, VT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c41d9e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014